

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 14-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 14 and 16 are amended and claims 12-13 and 17-30 are canceled. Claims 1 and 16 are amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied reference and claims 2, 3, 8 and 14 are amended to improve their grammar. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application to pursue the subject matter of non-elected, withdrawn claims 17-30.

The Office Action (i) rejects claims 1-8 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0020701 to Nakamura and (ii) rejects claims 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 16 are amended to incorporate the features of prior claims 12-13.

Nakamura discloses an electronic paper system having a main unit 20 able to accept multiple electronic papers 10 via connecting terminals 21a-21c (Figs. 6 and 8a; paragraph [0104]). This can be seen in the embodiments of Figs. 18 and 21a, which show multiple connectors 21 for electronic papers 10, each of which can turn as in a book. The electronic papers 10 can be volatile, meaning they lose their data display when removed from power, and nonvolatile, meaning they retain their data display when removed from the main unit 20 (paragraph [0004]). Display luminescence control means 22 controls the display of information on an electronic paper 10. The system is able to display information received from driver 23a or connector 23b, by which external signals can be input (Fig. 6a and paragraph [0101]).

Thus, regarding independent claims 1 and 16, Nakamura fails to disclose a transmission unit that "transmits the number information to an external computer through a communication." The Office Action cites to paragraph [0107] and Fig. 14, display luminescence control means 22, as corresponding to this feature. However, this is incorrect

because the cited section only discusses the attachment detecting means 30, which detects which connection terminals 21 have electronic paper 10 attached and which notifies the display luminescence control means 22 of the connecting terminal number (identification number) of the connecting terminal 21 connected to electronic paper 10. What is disclosed is simply an internal communication of the detected connecting terminal number, not communication of number information to an external computer.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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